

August 2003

## **GOWANUS CANAL BENTHIC SAMPLING DATA DOCUMENTATION**

**GOWANUS CANAL, NEW YORK**



Prepared by: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Planning Division  
New York District  
26 Federal Plaza  
New York, New York 10278-0090

**BENTHIC SAMPLING DATA DOCUMENTATION  
GOWANUS CANAL, NEW YORK**

**SECTIONS**

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- 2      Benthic Data**
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## **BENTHIC SAMPLING REPORT**

## GOWANUS CANAL BENTHIC SAMPLING FIELD TRIP REPORT

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**TO:** Pamela A. Lynch, Project Biologist (USACE)

**FROM:** Dave Santillo, Supervisory Biologist (NEA)  
Keith Brewer, Senior Biologist (NEA)

**SUBJECT:** Summary of the April 29 and 30, 2003  
Benthic Sampling Event

**CC:** Project File: CS 200, DO-018

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### April 29, 2003 – Day 1

7:00 am The team consisting of Ms. Pamela Lynch (USACE), Mr. Keith Brewer (NEA), and boat crew from the USACE Baltimore District began organizing for sampling event.

8:00 am Arrived at first site, GC3-29 to begin sampling. Air temperature was in the low 80's. Winds were out of the northwest at 0-5 knots.

11:00 am Sampling of the first 15 sites was completed and began mob back to dock.

12:20 pm Returned to dock and QA/QC was performed. Samples were sealed in buckets with formalin solution.

A total of 15 sites were sampled and two replicates at each site were taken. All the sites were accessed from boat launched from marina located at the northwest side of President Street. Hydrolab data was recorded at each site while sampling was conducted.

### April 30, 2003 Day 2

7:00 am The team arrived at marina and began organizing for sampling event.

8:00 am Arrived at sample site GC3-10 and began sampling. Temperature reached into the mid 80's and winds were out of the NW at 0-5 knots. Tide was rising and low tide was predicted to be at approximately 9:00 am.

10:50 am Sampling was completed and 2 buckets containing 29 intertidal benthos samples were sealed. The hydrolab was deployed at each site during the sampling.

**Summary:** A total of 29 sites were sampled and samples were sealed in two 5-gallon buckets. Hydrolab data were collected during both days. The benthos samples were shipped to Atlantic Reference Centre, Huntsman Marine Science Centre, 1 Lower Campus Road, St. Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada, for analysis.

The attached Microsoft Excel file of lab results, indicate the following:

- Columns represent samples as per provided information. Rows are taxa, with abundances for respective samples. Rows without abundance data represent higher taxa to which identified taxa belong. Last column and row represent total taxon abundance and sample abundance, respectively. A total of 7,841 specimens among 37 taxa were identified.
- The following samples contained oil/tar residue (that made sorting difficult): 8a and b, 13a and b, 15a and b, 16a and b, 17a and b, 22a and b, 26a and b, 29a and b, and 37a and b.
- In terms of total taxon numbers, a and b replicate samples are comparable except for samples 1, 4, and 5 where the a sample consists of higher diversity of species.
- Nematoda was the most abundant species collected. A total of 5,325 specimens was collected in 26 out of a 29 sample sites (including duplicates) and consists of 67.9% of the total catch. The second most abundant species was the oligochaeta worm with 861 specimens collected in 26 out of 29 sample sites (including duplicates) and consists of 11.0% of the total catch. The third most abundant species was the polychaeta worm *Capitella capitata* with 760 specimens collected in 13 out of 29 sample sites (including duplicates) and consists of 9.7% of the total catch.

## **BENTHIC DATA**

Gowanus Benthic Data

**WATER QUALITY DATA**

**APRIL 29-30, 2003**

Log File Name : 42903-1 and 43003-1  
 Setup Date (MMDDYY) : 042903 and 043003  
 Gowanus Canal Benthos

Station	Date	Time	Temp	pH	SpCond	Salin	DO	DO	Redox	Depth	Turb	Batt
	MMDDYY	HHMMSS	degC	units	mS/cm	ppt	%Sat	mg/l	mV	meters	NTU	volts
GC3-1	43003	95350	8.81	8.20	39.7	25.3	7.7	0.76	350	10.5	61.1	14.2
	43003	95425	9.21	8.21	35.6	22.4	7.7	0.77	342	6.5	59.7	14.2
	43003	95450	10.27	8.19	31.9	19.9	7.8	0.77	340	0.9	17.7	14.2
GC3-4	43003	92825	9.14	8.17	36.2	22.9	7.7	0.76	348	7.5	5.9	14.4
	43003	92900	9.52	8.20	33.4	20.9	8.2	0.82	344	2.4	33.0	14.4
	43003	92905	10.03	8.19	32.4	20.2	8.2	0.81	343	0.9	28.2	14.4
GC3-5	43003	101700	9.09	8.18	36.2	22.8	7.5	0.74	345	7.6	0.0	14.1
	43003	101745	9.56	8.20	33.7	21.1	7.8	0.77	341	3.7	22.5	14.1
	43003	101805	10.27	8.20	32.3	20.2	20.5	2.02	339	0.6	11.2	14.1
GC3-6	43003	84830	8.74	8.19	38.9	24.8	7.7	0.76	314	12.0	61.3	14.7
	43003	84855	8.89	8.22	37.3	23.7	7.9	0.79	313	6.9	18.6	14.7
	43003	84920	9.92	8.19	32.6	20.4	8.0	0.79	310	1.2	12.2	14.7
GC3-7	43003	82945	9.27	8.13	35.4	22.3	8.0	0.80	330	7.5	8.2	14.8
	43003	83005	9.44	8.14	34.5	21.7	8.2	0.82	328	3.0	12.7	14.9
	43003	83015	9.83	8.14	33.0	20.6	8.3	0.82	327	0.9	12.2	14.8
GC3-8	42903	102935	8.51	8.32	37.5	23.8	8.5	0.85	283	9.6	23.3	13.7
	42903	103000	8.81	8.32	35.5	22.4	9.1	0.91	281	5.4	22.9	13.7
	42903	103020	10.55	8.26	30.4	18.8	9.3	0.91	278	0.7	20.6	13.7
GC3-9	42903	101850	8.50	8.24	37.0	23.4	8.3	0.83	278	7.5	0.0	13.9
	42903	101940	9.05	8.27	34.0	21.4	9.1	0.91	265	3.6	18.1	13.9
	42903	102000	9.87	8.21	30.6	18.9	9.7	0.97	262	0.4	14.9	13.9
GC3-10	43003	75015	8.72	7.99	37.3	23.6	11.9	1.19	334	8.0	18.4	15.6
	43003	75035	9.43	8.05	34.6	21.7	11.8	1.17	330	4.1	12.4	15.5
	43003	75050	9.77	8.04	33.2	20.8	11.9	1.18	328	1.0	11.7	15.6

Log File Name : 42903-1 and 43003-1  
Setup Date (MMDDYY) : 042903 and 043003  
Gowanus Canal Benthos

Log File Name : 42903-1 and 43003-1  
Setup Date (MMDDYY) : 042903 and 043003  
Gowanus Canal Benthos

Station	Date	Time	pH	Temp	DO mg/l	DO mV	Depth meters	Turb NTU	Batt volts
	MDDYY	HHMMSS	units	degC	%Sat				
			SpCond mS/cm	Salin ppt					
GC3-23	42903	84735	10.09	8.13	31.9	19.9	8.2	0.81	275 1.5 25.1 14.6
	42903	84755	9.85	8.12	31.1	19.3	8.5	0.85	267 0.7 26.9 14.6
GC3-26	42903	83635	9.36	8.21	34.0	21.3	8.3	0.83	271 3.0 20.8 14.6
	42903	83700	9.54	8.18	32.8	20.5	8.6	0.86	261 0.7 58.8 14.6
GC3-29	42903	74020	9.24	7.90	34.5	21.7	9.7	0.97	364 2.3 42.2 15.4
	42903	74125	9.15	8.17	34.4	21.6	10.5	1.05	317 0.8 224.0 15.4
GC3-30	42903	80545	9.27	8.21	33.1	20.7	8.4	0.84	289 1.6 0.0 15.0
	42903	80610	9.26	8.22	33.1	20.7	8.8	0.88	281 0.6 33.1 15.0
GC3-31	43003	75830	9.36	8.07	35.0	22.0	9.0	0.90	324 5.5 23.0 15.4
	43003	75850	9.52	8.10	34.3	21.5	9.2	0.92	322 2.9 11.8 15.4
	43003	75915	9.91	8.05	32.8	20.5	9.3	0.92	321 1.0 8.9 15.3
GC3-32	43003	80925	9.77	8.04	33.2	20.7	8.6	0.85	333 1.9 0.0 15.1
	43003	80945	9.85	8.06	32.9	20.6	8.4	0.83	331 0.8 0.0 15.1
GC3-33	43003	102915	9.44	8.18	34.1	21.4	8.0	0.80	335 3.2 0.0 14.0
	43003	102925	9.62	8.18	33.4	20.9	8.1	0.80	333 1.8 1.9 14.0
	43003	102940	9.96	8.17	32.8	20.5	8.0	0.80	332 0.9 10.2 14.0
GC3-34	43003	100700	9.22	8.19	35.6	22.5	7.6	0.76	348 8.4 2.2 14.2
	43003	100730	9.65	8.20	33.2	20.8	7.6	0.76	344 5.0 23.6 14.1
	43003	100740	10.28	8.21	32.0	19.9	8.1	0.80	343 0.9 19.7 14.1
GC3-35	43003	94230	8.80	8.22	40.5	25.9	7.6	0.74	349 12.6 0.0 14.3
	43003	94315	9.36	8.23	34.0	21.3	7.6	0.75	344 7.7 36.2 14.3
	43003	94325	9.60	8.23	31.3	19.4	8.2	0.82	342 0.9 26.8 14.3

Log File Name : 42903-1 and 43003-1  
 Setup Date (MMDDYY) : 042903 and 043003  
 Gowanus Canal Benthos

Station	Date	Time	Temp	pH	SpCond	Salin	DO	Redox	Depth	Turb	Batt
	MMDDYY	HHMMSS	degC	units	mSi/cm	ppt	%Sat	mV	meters	NTU	volts
GC3-36	43003	91915	9.61	8.16	33.6	21.1	7.8	0.78	349	3.0	3.5
	43003	92000	10.00	8.15	32.8	20.5	7.9	0.78	346	1.1	10.7
GC3-37	43003	90030	9.73	8.16	33.2	20.8	8.0	0.79	323	1.8	1.2
	43003	90100	9.87	8.13	32.5	20.3	8.0	0.79	319	0.8	9.1
GC3-38	43003	83740	8.92	8.16	36.7	23.2	9.8	0.98	321	7.6	2.3
	43003	83830	9.31	8.17	34.6	21.8	8.2	0.81	318	4.3	11.4
	43003	83850	9.86	8.16	32.9	20.6	8.3	0.82	317	0.9	9.9
											14.8

**Key:**

Temp (temperature) - degree Celsius  
 SpCond (Specific Conductivity) - millisiemens per centimeter  
 Salin (Salinity) - parts per thousand  
 DO (Dissolved Oxygen) - percent saturation  
 DO (Dissolved Oxygen) - milligram per liter  
 Redox - millivolt  
 Depth - meter  
 Turb (Turbidity) - nephelometric turbidity unit  
 Batt (Battery) - volt

## **PHOTO DOCUMENTATION**

# NORTHERN ECOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES, INC.

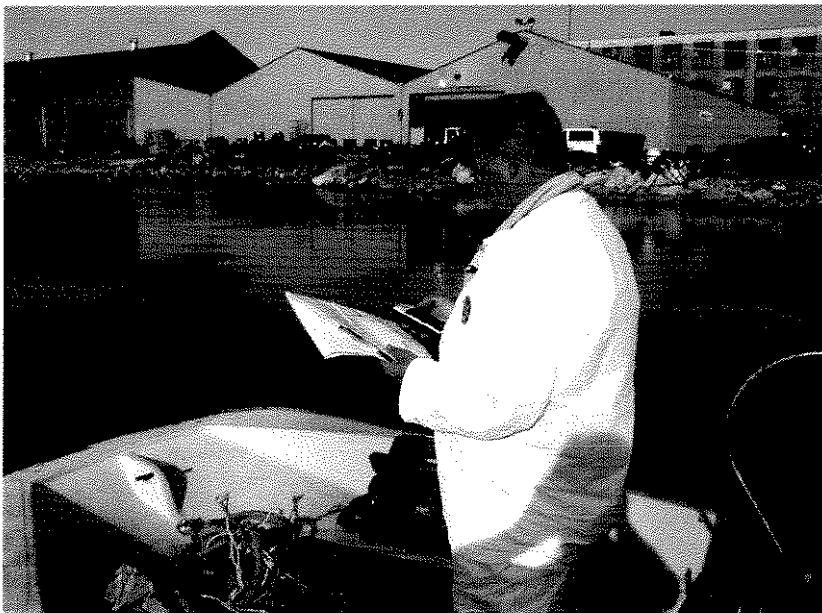
## PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

**Company:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
**Project:** Gowanus Canal Benthic Sampling



**Photographer:** Pam Lynch  
**Date:** April 29, 2003  
**Photo No.:** 1  
**Direction:** East

**Comments:**  
Mobilizing to site GC3-30 by boat. Two watercraft were tied up side by side for sampling. One vessel was used to collect sample and the other was used to process the sample.



**Photographer:** Pam Lynch  
**Date:** April 29, 2003  
**Photo No.:** 2  
**Direction:** North

**Comments:**  
View of GPS coordinates being recorded. Each sample site had coordinates recorded prior to sampling.

# NORTHERN ECOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES, INC.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

**Company:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
**Project:** Gowanus Canal Benthic Sampling



**Photographer:** Pam Lynch  
**Date:** April 29, 2003  
**Photo No.:** 3  
**Direction:** East

**Comments:**  
View of sample bags being filled from side of boat. Samples were taken with a petite Ponar benthic sampler.



**Photographer:** Pam Lynch  
**Date:** April 29, 2003  
**Photo No.:** 4  
**Direction:** North

**Comments:**  
View of sample being sieved prior to being put into sample bag. Two replicate samples were collected at each site.

## NORTHERN ECOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES, INC.

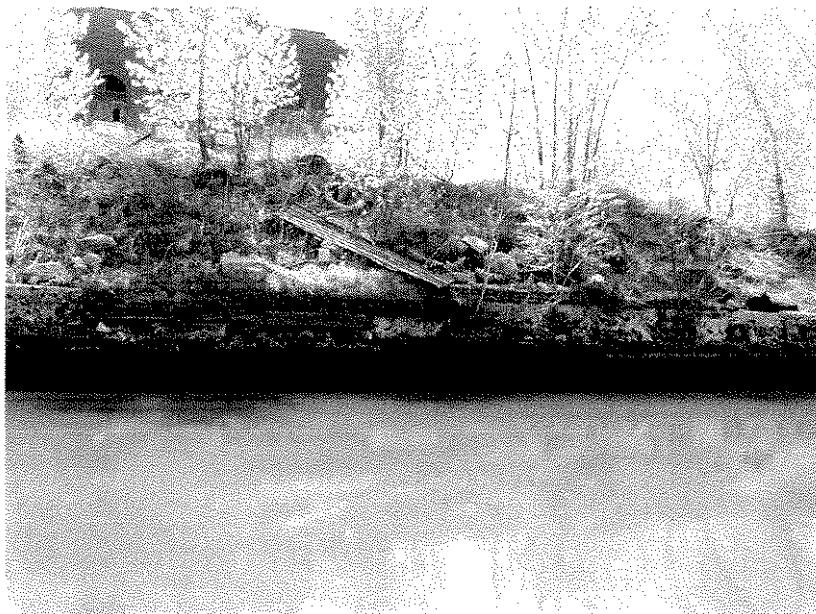
### PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

**Company:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
**Project:** Gowanus Canal Benthic Sampling



**Photographer:** Keith Brewer  
**Date:** April 30, 2003  
**Photo No.:** 5  
**Direction:** Southeast

**Comments:**  
View of Pam Lynch coordinating sampling sites.



**Photographer:** Keith Brewer  
**Date:** April 30, 2003  
**Photo No.:** 6  
**Direction:** South

**Comments:**  
View of shoreline along south shore of Gowanus Canal. Bulkhead is deteriorated and shoreline shows signs of severe degradation.

## **FIELD LOG BOOK**

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## Benthic Grabs Data

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Site	Boat Depth	Date	Time	Grab Fullness	Notes on sediment texture, biogenic structures, and other items
GC3-29(a)	8' (64')	4/19	7:51 AM	Full	Lat 40° 40' N 73° 54' W 4 attempts took 10 min. 4.4 m/s wind
GC3-29(b)	8' (64')	4/20	8:05 AM	2/3 full	Lat 40° 40' N 73° 54' W 4 attempts took 10 min. 4.4 m/s wind
GC3-30(a)	5.5' (64')	4/20	8:25 AM	Full	Lat 40° 40' N 73° 54' W 4 attempts took 10 min. 4.4 m/s wind
GC3-30(b)	5.5' (64')	4/20	8:27 AM	Full	Lat 40° 40' N 73° 54' W 4 attempts took 10 min. 4.4 m/s wind
GC3-29(c)	10.3' (64')	4/20	8:52 AM	Full	Lat 40° 40' N 73° 54' W 4 attempts took 10 min. 4.3 sec. 100% (44%)
GC3-29(d)	10.5' (64')	4/20	9:03 AM	Full	Lat 40° 40' N 73° 54' W 4 attempts took 10 min. 4.3 sec. 100% (44%)
GC3-23(a)	5' (64')	4/20	9:10 AM	Full	Lat 40° 40' N 73° 54' W 4 attempts took 10 min. 4.2 sec. 100% (44%)
GC3-23(b)	5' (64')	4/20	9:07 AM	Full	Lat 40° 40' N 73° 54' W 4 attempts took 10 min. 4.2 sec. 100% (44%)
GC3-47(a)	4.7' (64')	4/20	9:14 AM	Full	Lat 40° 40' N 73° 54' W 4 attempts took 10 min. 4.1 sec. 100% (43%)
GC3-47(b)	4.7' (64')	4/20	9:16 AM	Full	Lat 40° 40' N 73° 54' W 4 attempts took 10 min. 4.1 sec. 100% (43%)
GC3-21(a)	3.5' (64')	4/20	9:24 AM	Full	Lat 40° 40' N 73° 54' W 4 attempts took 10 min. 4.1 sec. 100% (43%)
GC3-21(b)	3.5' (64')	4/20	9:31 AM	Full	Lat 40° 40' N 73° 54' W 4 attempts took 10 min. 4.1 sec. 100% (43%)
GC3-19(a)	3.2' (64')	4/20	9:34 AM	Full	Lat 40° 40' N 73° 54' W 4 attempts took 10 min. 4.1 sec. 100% (43%)
GC3-19(b)	3.2' (64')	4/20	9:34 AM	Full	Lat 40° 40' N 73° 54' W 4 attempts took 10 min. 4.1 sec. 100% (43%)

Standardized Test 25, 1995

Page #2

### Geobacterous Benthic Grabs Data

Graph

Station	Boat Depth	Date	Time	Grab Fullness	Notes on sediment texture, biogenic structures, and other items	Tides
⑧ 6C3-16a	13.9'	4/29	9:42am	Full	Lat 40°40' N Long 137°45' E 37.6 m	3.9 falling 9:40
⑨ 6C3-13b	13.9'	4/29	9:45am	Ful	Lat 40°40' N Long 137°45' E 37.6 m	3.9 falling 9:40
⑩ 6C3-17(B)	(3.8) (3.6)	4/29	9:51am	Ful	Lat 40°40' N Long 137°45' E 37.6 m	3.7 falling 9:45
⑪ 6C3-12.6	(3.8) (3.6)	4/29	9:51am	Ful	Lat 40°40' N Long 137°45' E 37.6 m	3.7 falling 9:45
⑫ 6C3-12.6	4/29	10:00am	Ful	Lat 40°40' N Long 137°45' E 37.6 m	3.4 falling 10	
⑬ 6C3-16a	5.7'	4/29	10:02am	2/3 full	Lat 40°40' N Long 137°45' E 37.6 m	3.4 falling 10
⑭ 6C3-16b	5.7'	4/29	10:03am	1/2	Lat 40°40' N Long 137°45' E 37.6 m	3.5 falling 9:45
⑮ 6C3-16a	11.9'	4/29	10:16am	Ful	Lat 40°40' N Long 137°45' E 37.6 m	3.5 falling 9:45
⑯ 6C3-13(h)	11.9'	4/29	10:18am	Ful	Lat 40°40' N Long 137°45' E 37.6 m	3.3 falling 10
⑰ 6C3-13(h)	13 (9.4)	4/29	10:23am	Ful	Lat 40°40' N Long 137°45' E 37.6 m	3.3 falling 10
⑱ 6C3-16a	13 (9.7)	4/29	10:24am	Ful	Lat 40°40' N Long 137°45' E 37.6 m	3.2 falling 10
⑲ 6C3-24.7	4/29	10:35am	Ful	Lat 40°40' N Long 137°45' E 37.6 m	3.0 falling 10	
⑳ 6C3-14.7	4/29	10:37am	Ful	Lat 40°40' N Long 137°45' E 37.6 m	3.0 falling 10	
㉑ 6C3-32.5	4/29	10:48am	Ful	Lat 40°40' N Long 137°45' E 37.6 m	2.9 falling 10	
㉒ 6C3-32.5	4/29	11:04	Ful	Lat 40°40' N Long 137°45' E 37.6 m	2.9 falling 10	

Prepared Aug 25, 1995

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Depth taken from Hospital  
Schooner "Preston" (1860)

### Benthic Crabs Data

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Sample Depth taken from transects

*Geographic*  
Benthic Grabs Data

Sheet #4

Station	Boat Depth	Date	Time	Grab Fullness	Notes on sediment texture, biogenic structures, and other items	Tides
60-3 30(a)	3(m)	4/30	9:32am	full	40° 40° 6° 40° 74° 60° 31.2° wet/dry sand/silt	4:2 falling
60-3 30(b)	9.8'	4/30	9:34am	full	40° 40° 6° 40° 74° 60° 31.7° wet/dry sand/silt	4:2 falling
60-3 30(c)	(7.5m)	4/30	9:46am	full	40° 39° 63.7° W 74° 60° 45.4° live mussels, silt	4:2 falling
60-3 40(a)	24.6'	4/30	9:46am	full	46° 39° 52.2° W 74° 60° 45.9° live mussels, silt	4:2 falling
60-3 35(b)	30.6m	4/30	10:02am	full	control - only 4 sample taken	4:2 falling
60-3 35(c)	44.3'	4/30		X	control	
60-3 10.5(m)	4/30	10:12am	full	40° 36° 38.5° 41° 74° 30° 35.9° stable + nothing	3:6 falling	
60-3 11.0	34.4'	4/30	10:15am	full	40° 32° 38.5° W 73° 20° 36.4° stable + nothing	3:6 falling
60-3 34.0	(6.4m)	4/30	10:23am	full	40° 37° 35.4° W 74° 60° 29.4° stable + nothing	3:6 falling
60-3 34.0	4/30	10:28am	full	46° 39° 35.4° W 74° 60° 29.4° stable + nothing	3:6 falling	
60-3 35.0	(7.6m)	4/30	10:32am	full	46° 37° 33.1° W 74° 60° 29.3° stable + nothing	3:6 falling
60-3 35(b)		4/30	10:37am	full	40° 34° 33.1° W 74° 60° 28.3° stable + nothing	3:5 falling
60-3 35(c)	(3.2)	4/30	10:41am	full	46° 32° 40.8° W 71° 60° 20.5° stable + nothing	3:3 falling
60-3 33.0		4/30	10:50am	full	40° 39° 49.4° W 74° 60° 20.5° stable + nothing	3:3 falling

Prepared Aug 25, 1995

END ✓ end sampling effort.